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Public Information Office: +93 (0)70-234-236 x4037
E-mail: kabulusaidinformation@usaid.gov
<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

FACT SHEET

Health Services Support Project (HSSP)

OVERVIEW

The Health Services Support Project (HSSP) began in 2006 to improve service delivery and quality of basic health services in Afghanistan and to generate demand for those services. The Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) is the framework of primary healthcare service delivery in Afghanistan. The BPHS delineates the services that should be provided by each type of health facility, and specifies the staff, equipment, diagnostic services, and medications required to provide those services. HSSP assists the Ministry of Public Health in strengthening the health system to provide quality healthcare by establishing a quality assurance system, increasing the number and performance of BPHS service providers, especially women in rural and underserved areas, improving behavior change communication, and integrating gender awareness and practices into BPHS.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Quality Assurance:** Institutionalize the quality assurance process at all levels of the BPHS including identifying standards of care, assessing progress, guiding improvement in achieving standards, and recognizing the achievement of the standards
- **Midwifery Education:** Provide grants and technical assistance to hospital and community-based midwifery education programs to recruit, train, and deploy midwives
- **Gender:** Support gender awareness and gender based violence training, research, and the promotion and integration of gender-sensitive quality assurance standards
- **Media-based Health Promotion:** Promote healthy behaviors through community mobilization and train health professionals to provide behavior change communication through radio and TV, posters, and brochures
- **Preventing Maternal Mortality:** Train community health workers to provide misoprostol, a medication proven to protect against postpartum hemorrhage, to women who cannot give birth under the care of a doctor or midwife
- **Clinical Skills:** Provide in-service training in such topics as infection prevention; prevention of postpartum hemorrhage training of trainers; laboratory skills; family planning, including postpartum family planning and postpartum intrauterine contraceptive device insertion; effective teaching skills; basic emergency obstetric care; newborn care; rational use of drugs; and integrated management of childhood illnesses to BPHS healthcare providers

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed national quality assurance standards for improved service delivery in 14 priority areas of the BPHS—including family planning, antenatal care, postpartum care, and infection prevention—and supported quality assurance reward and recognition ceremonies at central and provincial levels
- Awarded 14 midwifery education grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support the training of 942 midwives
- Trained more than 12,200 participants to date from NGOs, health facilities, and the MoPH on a variety of clinical and non-clinical topics
- Expanded prevention of postpartum hemorrhage in home births project to 20 districts in five provinces
- Provided technical assistance to the MoPH in developing the National Health and Nutrition Communication Strategy 2008-2013 and the National Gender Strategy 2011-2015